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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,273	11/10/2003	Brian J. Brown	S63.2N-6769-US03	4909
490	7590	08/19/2009	EXAMINER	
VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A. SUITE 400, 6640 SHADY OAK ROAD EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55344				BUI, VY Q
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3773				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/19/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/705,273	BROWN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vy Q. Bui	3773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2009.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 38-65 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 40,41,44 and 47-56 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 38,39,42,43,45,46 and 57-70 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 64 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/30/2009</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

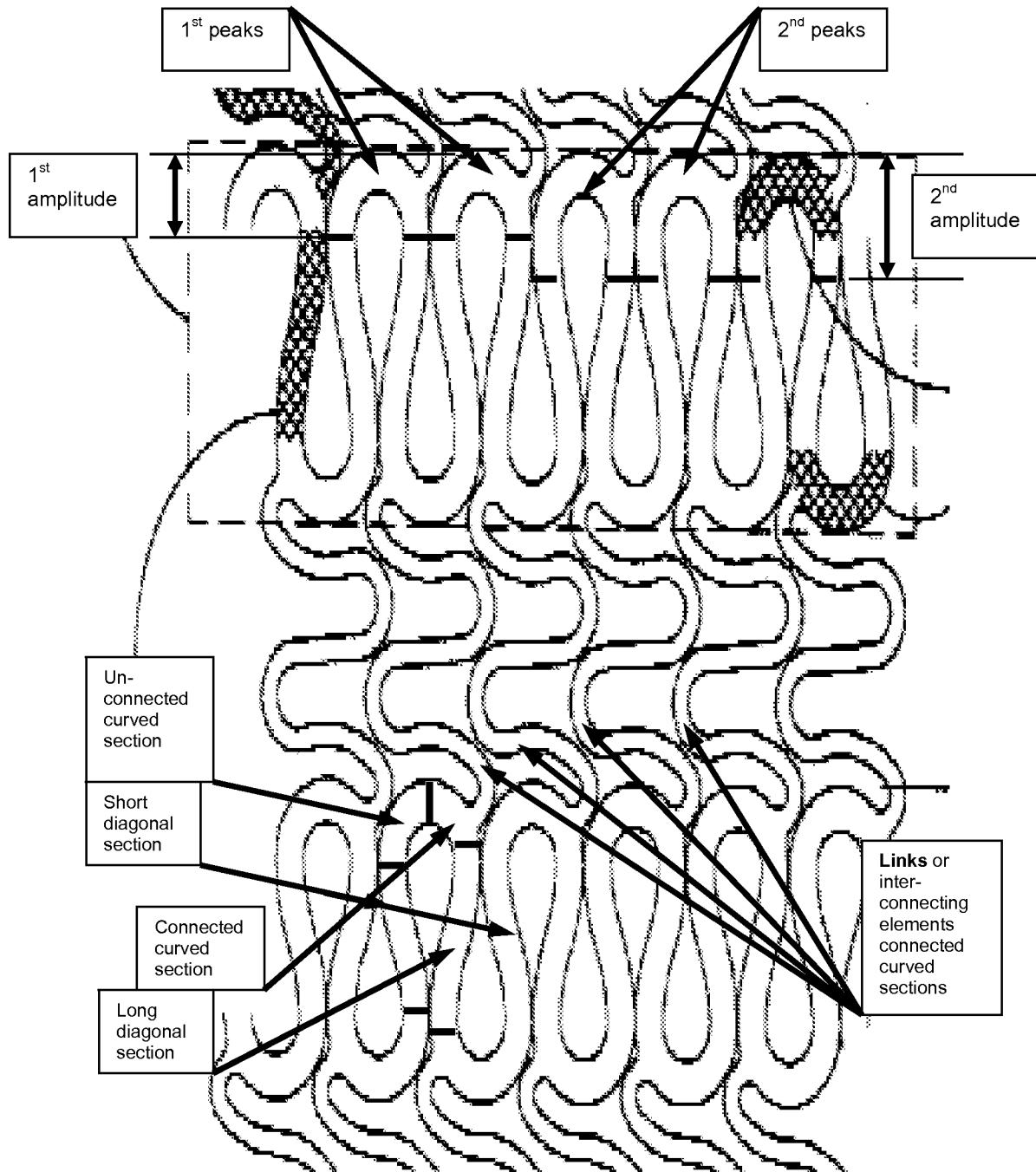
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 38, 42-43, 45, 58-60 and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fischell et al-6,190,403.

As to claims 38, 42-43, 45, 58-60 and 65, Fischell-'403 discloses a stent made of a stainless steel. Notice that the limitation "short diagonal section", "long diagonal section", "unconnected curved section", and "connected curved section" in the claims are broadly interpreted. Therefore, partial of Fischell-'403's Fig. 9 reproduced below shows each circumferential set of strut members including links 44 connecting "connected curved sections", short diagonal sections, long diagonal section, unconnected curved sections and connected curved sections to define connected strut members and unconnected strut members substantially as recited in the claims.

Notice that there is nothing in the claims to exclude the interpretation of Fischell-'403's Fig. 9 as presented below. The applicant is expected to amend the claims to distinguish the present claimed invention over Fischell-'403's.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 39, 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischell et al-6,190,403 in view of Kanesaka et al-5,810,872.

As to claims 39 and 63, Fischell-'403 discloses substantially all limitations of the claimed invention, except for a straight link. However, Kanesaka-872 discloses a stent as shown in Fig. 1 having wavy band connecting by substantially straight elements. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide straight links to a Fischell-'403 stent as straight links are well known links in the stent art.

2. Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischell et al-6,190,403 in view of in view of Anderson et al.-5,800,526.

As to claim 46, Fischell-'403 discloses substantially all limitations of the claimed invention, except for the stent made of a tantalum. However, Anderson-'526 (col. 4. lines 37-40; col. 9, lines 52-61) discloses a stent of tantalum for easy detection under as fluoroscopy process. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make Fischell-'403 from a tantalum material for easy detection under a fluoroscopy process.

3. Claims 57, 61-62 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischell et al-6,190,403.

As to claims 57, 61-62 and 64, Fischell-'403 discloses substantially all limitations of the claimed invention, except for some minor modifications as recited in the claims. There is no evident that these modifications will significantly improve the performance of Fischell-'403. Therefore, the claims are not considered as patentable over Fischell-'403.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vy Q. Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-4692. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on 571-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vy Q. Bui/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773